

Remarks
Chargé d’Affaires Sandra Clark

Lunch for Potential YALI Supporters

Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar
October 21, 2014

(As prepared)

Directors and representatives of private sector companies,

Distinguished members of the consortium leading the establishment of the YALI Regional Leadership Center,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

President Obama recognized the potential of the continent’s next generation by launching his signature Young African Leadership Initiative program in 2010. There is great value in bringing together innovative African leaders at the beginning of their careers. We want to identify from the start, who will bring entrepreneurial approaches to strengthening Africa’s democratic institutions and spurring its economic growth. Through YALI, we are solidifying ties with these professionals early on.

We are also spearheading development by giving Africans a platform to develop and connect -- with us, and among likeminded young leaders in their countries and around the continent.

While the private sector is the engine of development, it needs talented, innovative, and effective young leaders. YALI wants to engage, involve and strengthen the capacity of institutions which train these rising stars. To that end, we are developing Regional Leadership Centers here in Dakar, as well as Accra, Nairobi, and Johannesburg. The Centers will cultivate this new generation who you need to lead your companies into the future.

We believe that partnership with the private sector is not only essential for economic development, but also good for business. We are available to discuss our mutual interest in developing Senegal’s next generation of leaders, and the partnerships we would like to forge with you.

Thank you all for making time in your busy schedules to join us today. You are colleagues and friends, but also partners in advancing Senegal’s economic and social development.

Thank you for your kind attention.